

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. *(currently amended)* An audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ comprising:
  - at least one audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ with a group of real-time functions configured to process ~~(14)~~ for processing audio data and a group of control functions configured to process ~~(15)~~ for processing control signals; and
  - at least one processor configured to provide ~~(16;56,57)~~ providing a first process ~~(20)~~ for executing real-time functions ~~(14)~~ of said at least one audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ using a basically constant processing power and at least one further process ~~(30)~~ for executing control functions ~~(15)~~ of said at least one audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ whenever needed without affecting the processing power employed for said first process ~~(20)~~.
2. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ according to claim 1, wherein said at least one audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ includes a plurality of audio processing components, said audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ further comprising an audio processing engine configured to select ~~(22)~~ for selecting successively one of said audio processing components ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~, and to cause said at least one processor to execute ~~(16;56,57)~~ executing real-time functions ~~(14)~~ of the respectively selected audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ in a dedicated part ~~(21)~~ of said first process ~~(20)~~ and control functions ~~(15)~~ of the respectively selected audio processing component ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~ in a dedicated part ~~(31)~~ of said at least one further process ~~(30)~~.

3. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ according to claim 2, wherein said control functions ~~(15)~~ are designed for generating events based on received control signals and for time-stamping said events, when said control functions ~~(15)~~ are executed in said at least one further process ~~(30)~~, wherein said at least one further process ~~(30)~~ is designed for providing said events to said first process ~~(20)~~, and wherein said real-time functions ~~(14)~~ are designed for using said events at a time defined by said time stamps, when said real-time functions ~~(14)~~ are executed in said first process ~~(20)~~.
4. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(1)~~ according to claim 3, wherein said at least one processor is a single processor, which is -configured to provide ~~(16) providing~~ said first process ~~(20)~~ and said at least one further process ~~(30)~~.
5. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(5)~~ according to claim 3, wherein said at least one processor comprises a first processor ~~(56)~~ and at least a second processor ~~(57)~~, said first processor being configured to provide ~~(56) providing~~ said first process and said second processor being configured to provide ~~(57) providing~~ at least one of said at least one further process.
6. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ according to claim 5, wherein said first process ~~(20)~~ and said at least one further process ~~(30)~~ are execution threads.
7. *(currently amended)* A method of ~~operating an audio processing system (1;5), which comprises at least one audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) with a group of real-time functions (14) for processing audio data and a group of control functions (15) for processing control signals, said method comprising the steps of:~~

- executing ~~said~~ real-time functions (14) of ~~said~~ at least one audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) with a basically constant processing power using a first process for processing audio data (20); and
  - executing ~~said~~ control functions (15) of said at least one audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) whenever needed using at least one further process (30) without affecting the processing power employed for said first process for processing control signals (20).
8. *(currently amended)* The method according to claim 7, wherein said at least one audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) includes a plurality of audio processing components, said method further comprising selecting successively one of said audio processing components ~~(11,12,13;51,52,53)~~, the real-time functions (14) of the respectively selected audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) being executed in a dedicated part (24) of said first process (20) and the control functions (15) of the respectively selected audio processing component (11,12,13;51,52,53) being executed in a dedicated part (31) of said at least one further process (30).
9. *(currently amended)* The method according to claim 8, wherein executing said control functions (15) in said at least one further process (30) comprises generating events based on received control signals, time-stamping said events and providing said events to said first process (20), and wherein executing said real-time functions (14) in said first process (20) comprises making use of said events at a time selected based on said time stamps.
10. *(currently amended)* A software program product comprising a software code, stored on a computer-readable medium, ~~for an audio processing componentsaid~~ software code (11,12,13;51,52,53) defining real-time functions and control

functions for at least one audio processing component, and said software code when executed by at least one processor causing said at least one processor:

to execute said real-time functions by a first process of said at least one processor with a basically constant processing power for processing (14;54) for processing audio data; when said software code is executed by a process of a processor and

to execute said defining control functions by at least one further process of said at least one processor whenever needed for processing (15;55) for processing control signals without affecting the processing power employed for said first process when said software code is executed by a process of a processor,  
~~said real time functions (14;54) being defined to be executed by a first process (21) and said control functions (15;55) being defined to be executed by at least one further process (31) of at least one processor (16;56,57), and said real time functions (14;54) ensuring that a basically constant amount of processing power is taken from said at least one processor (16;56,57) when said real time functions (14;54) are executed by said first process (21).~~

11. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system (1;5) according to claim 1, wherein said control functions (15) are designed for generating events based on received control signals and for time-stamping said events, when said control functions (15) are executed in said at least one further process (30), wherein said at least one further process (30) is designed for providing said events to said first process (20), and wherein said real-time functions (14) are designed for using said events at a time defined by said time stamps, when said real-time functions (14) are executed in said first process (20).
12. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system (1) according to claim 1, wherein said at least one processor is a single processor (16) providing said first process (20) and said at least one further process (30).

13. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(5)~~ according to claim 1, wherein said at least one processor comprises a first processor ~~(56)~~ and at least a second processor ~~(57)~~, said first processor ~~(56)~~ providing said first process and said second processor ~~(57)~~ providing at least one of said at least one further process.
14. *(currently amended)* The audio processing system ~~(1;5)~~ according to claim 1, wherein said first process ~~(20)~~ and said at least one further process ~~(30)~~ are execution threads.
15. *(currently amended)* The method according to claim 7, wherein executing said control functions ~~(15)~~ in said at least one further process ~~(30)~~ comprises generating events based on received control signals, time-stamping said events and providing said events to said first process ~~(20)~~, and wherein executing said real-time functions ~~(14)~~ in said first process ~~(20)~~ comprises making use of said events at a time selected based on said time stamps.
16. *(new)* Software program product according to claim 10, wherein said at least one audio processing component includes a plurality of audio processing components, said software code when executed by said at least one processor causing said at least one processor to select said audio processing components successively, and to execute the real-time functions of the respectively selected audio processing component in a dedicated part of said first process and to execute the control functions of the respectively selected audio processing component in a dedicated part of said at least one further process.
17. *(new)* Software program product according to claim 10, wherein executing said control functions in said at least one further process comprises generating events

based on received control signals, time-stamping said events and providing said events to said first process, and wherein executing said real-time functions in said first process comprises making use of said events at a time selected based on said time stamps.

18. *(new)* An apparatus comprising:

- means for defining at least one audio processing component with a group of real-time functions for processing audio data and a group of control functions for processing control signals; and
- means for providing a first process for executing real-time functions of said at least one audio processing component using a basically constant processing power and at least one further process for executing control functions of said at least one audio processing component whenever needed without affecting the processing power employed for said first process.